

1.2 Flexibility of space: adapting the architecture of a youth center to the needs of young people

Problem statement. Today, young people have access to a multitude of leisure opportunities, but not all of them have a positive impact on their formation and are useful for personal development.

The topic of transforming youth centers in a modern urban environment is extremely relevant. Changing needs of youth, development of technologies and new approaches to education and upbringing require rethinking traditional models of youth spaces. One of the problems facing Ukrainian youth today is a low level of civic engagement. According to the "Youth of Ukraine 2015" study, only 2% of young people are members of public organizations, and 62% did not participate in any civil society activities at all during the year.[6]

This study is aimed at analyzing the impact of architectural and planning decisions of youth centers on the behavior and well-being of young people, with an emphasis on their integration into the urban environment and the creation of a motivational space for young people. Flexibility and openness are considered as a way to adapt space to the needs of young people, in order to involve them in activity in youth centers. Architectural solutions that can work and strengthen the idea of the organization itself, as well as arouse the interest of the young person, are also considered.

The purpose of the article: to show the connection between the architectural and planning component of youth centers and the involvement of young people in such centers.

Analysis of recent research and publications.

On the "Hromadskyi Prostir" portal, an article titled "Youth Civic and Political Activity: Current Realities" has been published, presenting statistical data on youth civic engagement.

The manual "Youth Policy in United Territorial Communities within the Framework of the 'Youth Worker' Program" outlines reforms introduced since 2014, aimed at creating favorable living conditions for young people in communities. The key goal of these changes is to provide opportunities for self-realization and youth development locally, thus minimizing migration. As part of this program, an article titled "A Brief History of Youth Centers" was created, which examines the main stages in the formation of modern youth centers.

The manual "Youth Centers in Ukraine" addresses the creation of youth centers based on the principle of decentralization.

In 2020, the analytical center Cedos released findings from a study on the leisure and cultural needs of urban youth in Ukraine, conducted with the support of the Ukrainian Cultural Foundation. The research focused on youth in large Ukrainian cities.

The work "Youth Policy in United Territorial Communities" provides examples of forms of youth policy.

The brochure "Youth Centers in Ukraine" offers informative insights into current trends in the development of youth centers.

The manual "Standards for Youth Centers", developed by IREX and the NGO "Youth Platform" as part of the "Dream and Act" program, explores the important topic of architectural and planning principles for creating youth centers.

The methodological recommendations "Youth Centers: Basic Principles and Foundations" highlight approaches to creating youth centers and define the minimum set of spaces required for such facilities.

The guide for local authorities and communities, titled "How to Create a Community Space: Step-by-Step Instructions", delves into the topic of public spaces and their integration with the internal setup of youth centers.

Research results. The history of youth spaces goes back to ancient times. Even in ancient times, there were institutions similar to modern youth centers. Roman colleges were places where young people could not only relax, but also study and participate in social life.

Later, in different historical periods, various clubs and associations emerged that brought people together around common interests and values. Such communities often had a creative nature and played an important role in the cultural life of society.

At the beginning of the 20th century, in parallel with the emergence of youth policy, the first spaces specifically created for the needs of young people began to appear. One of the first examples of such spaces was the scout houses that appeared in Britain and the USA. These cozy places not only served as a base for scouting activities, but also became the first youth centers in the modern sense. They offered young people a place to meet, study and develop leadership qualities. [7]

In parallel with scouting, other youth movements also developed. For example, in the USA, a corn club for youth emerged, which later turned into a large-scale 4-H movement. This club, which initially united young farmers, gradually expanded its activities and became one of the most influential.

A significant contribution to the development of the concept of youth centers was made by student fraternities in the USA. These closed communities built their own houses where students could live, study and relax. Student fraternities became a model for many youth organizations, demonstrating how important it is to have your own space for self-realization.

Scouting left a special mark on the history of youth centers. Swedish scout houses of the interwar period became real legends. Their interior, with bear skins and other elements of forest life, created an atmosphere of comfort and closeness to nature. It was this style, known as "Scandinavian", that later became one of the most popular directions in the design of youth centers.

After the end of World War II, the successful experience of scouting and other youth movements prompted the creation of larger and more accessible youth spaces. There was a need to provide conditions for self-development and leisure not only for a limited circle of young people, but also for broad segments of the population.

This trend was reinforced by the values of the baby boomer generation, who sought self-realization and active participation in public life. One of the striking examples is Copenhagen's "Christiania" - a self-governing district created by young

people. Despite numerous attempts by the authorities to disperse this informal neighborhood, it successfully exists to this day, demonstrating the viability of youth initiatives.

A network of youth institutions was also actively developing in Western Ukrainian territories. The Scouts, a national-patriotic youth organization, created their own homes and camps. In parallel, Ukrainian students abroad united around academic buildings, such as the one built in Lviv with the funds of the philanthropist Yevhen Chykalenko. These buildings became centers of Ukrainian student life, contributing to the preservation of national identity and the development of leadership qualities.

Similar academic buildings existed in other European cities, in particular, in Prague and Danzig. They not only provided students with housing, but also created conditions for communication, study and cultural leisure. An interesting feature of such buildings was the combination of the functions of a dormitory, a dining room and a cultural center, where students could independently organize their lives.

A modern youth center is primarily an institution (in large cities - a network of local branches), the work of which is aimed at creating appropriate conditions for the development of youth, providing a wide range of services to young people, ensuring their meaningful and high-quality leisure.

Special attention is paid to the development of youth infrastructure at the level of territorial communities.

The development of youth infrastructure involves decentralization, which includes the creation of multifunctional youth centers, which should become not only places for leisure, but also platforms for learning, creativity, social interaction and entrepreneurship development. Direct participation of young people in the development of the center concept will allow creating a space that best meets their needs and expectations.[8]

Most young people in large cities spend their non-working time on passive recreation: at least once a week they use the Internet (82%), listen to music (67%), watch videos (55%) and television (50%). Comparatively, much fewer young people

visit cinemas (14%), concerts, theaters and art exhibitions (5% each) at least once a month.

Various factors influence the leisure of young people: the field of employment and working conditions, the amount of free time, income level, gender, age, place of residence, the availability and accessibility of infrastructure for recreation and leisure. Today's youth increasingly face unstable work schedules and blurred boundaries between work and leisure. Remote work and freelancing blur the lines between office and home, and creative professions often require full commitment, blurring the line between work and hobby. Those working in the service sector are often deprived of the opportunity to relax on weekends and holidays, which limits their leisure time.[9]

Youth centers are one of the forms of work with youth. The concept of youth centers is based on the idea of creating an open space where young people could freely spend time, develop their talents and interests, and communicate with like-minded people. This is not just a physical space, but a place where every teenager or young person feels comfortable and safe.

Why is so much attention paid to the creation of such centers? The fact is that youth centers play an important role in shaping the future of society. They contribute to the development of such important qualities as independence, responsibility, tolerance, creativity and initiative. In addition, youth centers help young people adapt to changes taking place in society and find their place in life.

Today, in the conditions of decentralization and the need to optimize budgets, many communities are faced with the problem of choosing: which institutions for youth to keep and which to close. In such conditions, youth centers can be an effective solution. They allow you to combine various areas of youth work under one roof, optimize costs and create a more flexible system that can quickly adapt to the changing needs of young people.

In this context, youth centers become a promising solution. They can become a logical continuation of the educational process, offering young people various opportunities for development and self-realization.

A relatively new form of work with youth is the creation of hubs, coworking spaces based on existing spaces, where young people can freely spend time depending on their needs.

The creation of such spaces does not require significant financial costs. They can be organized on the basis of existing premises, such as libraries, cultural centers or even unused buildings. Their main feature is accessibility for young people and ease of use.

The main service provided by hubs and coworking spaces is the provision of premises and necessary equipment that young people can use independently for learning, creativity, holding meetings, etc. This allows young people to feel like masters of the situation and develop their initiative.

In addition, they are an ideal platform for public organizations and initiative groups working with young people. Such spaces provide an opportunity to hold various events, trainings, workshops and other events at an affordable cost.

Another form of work with young people is tent camping. The roadmap for reforming youth policy emphasizes the importance of tent camps as an effective and economical way to organize youth leisure. This format allows you to combine various activities, from sports to education, and attract more young people.[10]

Organization of youth centers. On the initiative of regional councils and state administrations, 17 regional youth centers were created in 2017. There is also a tendency to transform youth labor centers into general-type youth centers, which allows expanding the range of services and covering a larger number of young people.

The creation of multifunctional spaces for youth is becoming increasingly important in the modern world. Architects working on the design of such spaces must take into account not only aesthetic aspects, but also pedagogical, social, psychological and economic features of the youth environment.

By creating various opportunities for leisure, self-realization and development, the architecture of youth space encourages adolescents to move from the passive role of observers to active participation in the life of society. This approach contributes to the formation of responsible and independent personalities.[8]

Requirements for youth center premises. The location of the youth center should be as convenient as possible for young people. The ideal option is an area where most potential visitors live, study or work. In addition, it is important that the center is easily accessible by public transport.

If the center is located in the same building as other institutions, it is advisable to provide a separate entrance so that young people feel their autonomy. However, if this is not possible, the center's staff should have access to all entrances and exits of the building.

As for the area, the minimum permissible figure is 60 square meters. The center's premises should not be located in the basement or ground floor. The intended purpose of the youth center's premises is non-residential. It should be bright, spacious and meet sanitary standards. The recommended minimum height of the premises is 3 m.

At the entrance, it is necessary to provide parking spaces for bicycles, scooters and other vehicles. In the summer, the center should organize events in the adjacent territory, using it for educational or leisure activities. Access to the center should be barrier-free, with ramps or other adaptations. Sanitary and hygienic premises must be accessible to persons with reduced mobility and have appropriate pictograms.

The premises of the youth center must comply with sanitary standards, in particular the requirements of DSaPiN 3.3.2.007-98, providing a minimum of 6 m² per workplace of administrative staff. The minimum area for visitors is determined at the rate of 2 m² per person. Bathrooms, at least two, must be located on the same floor as the center.

To determine the required premises of a youth centre, it is first necessary to determine the range of services that the centre will provide.

It is important to choose those services that correspond to the local/regional/national situation and available resources.

To ensure the success of such a centre, it is worth starting with a small set of services and developing further, rather than starting from everything at once. Therefore, the first stage is important to decide on the main primary services that the

youth centre will provide. The second stage is additional services, which will depend on the further wishes of visitors and the availability of resources.[11]

The number of premises required and their location depends on the services that the centre will offer.

The following conditions must be provided in the youth centre:

- The building must be located in a familiar and easily accessible place for young people.

- It is necessary to provide a reception area with a place for placing information materials, a registration desk, chairs and tables for communication and viewing materials, public internet terminals and computers, a photocopier, a place for welcoming meetings with groups.

- It is important to design one or more rooms for staff meetings, group work, interviews or consultations.

- Inclusivity

- A room for the director and/or administration,

- the room should be equipped with a kitchen and toilets.[12]

In addition to the building itself, the environment in which it is located and the communication between the internal and external space are important. Public space is a space of social activity: communication and representation, reflecting the socio-economic and political model of society. Also an interesting solution is a dynamic public space, the use of which can be different at different times of the year, week, day, etc.[13]

Using the example of the youth center "Ukrainian Youth for Christ" in Lviv, the use of basic architectural and planning principles for the creation of such structures is considered (Figure 1). This project is a reconstruction of the existing premises of the youth center "Ukrainian Youth for Christ". The building consists of two floors, the first of which is the youth center premises, and the second is residential. The building is located in the central part of the city on Pekarska Street and is surrounded by residential buildings. It consists of two parts: the first is the youth center itself, the second is a sports hall and abandoned garages. According to the initial data, the building does not

have window openings from the north and west. The concept was taken as openness and multifunctionality of the premises. A large number of partitions that formed small rooms were demolished. Since the youth center is small in area (248 sq m), the principle of greater concentration of people was chosen, for this purpose numerous partitions were removed that divided the space into small rooms that were never filled with people at the same time. Thus, the youth space itself is divided into three main blocks.

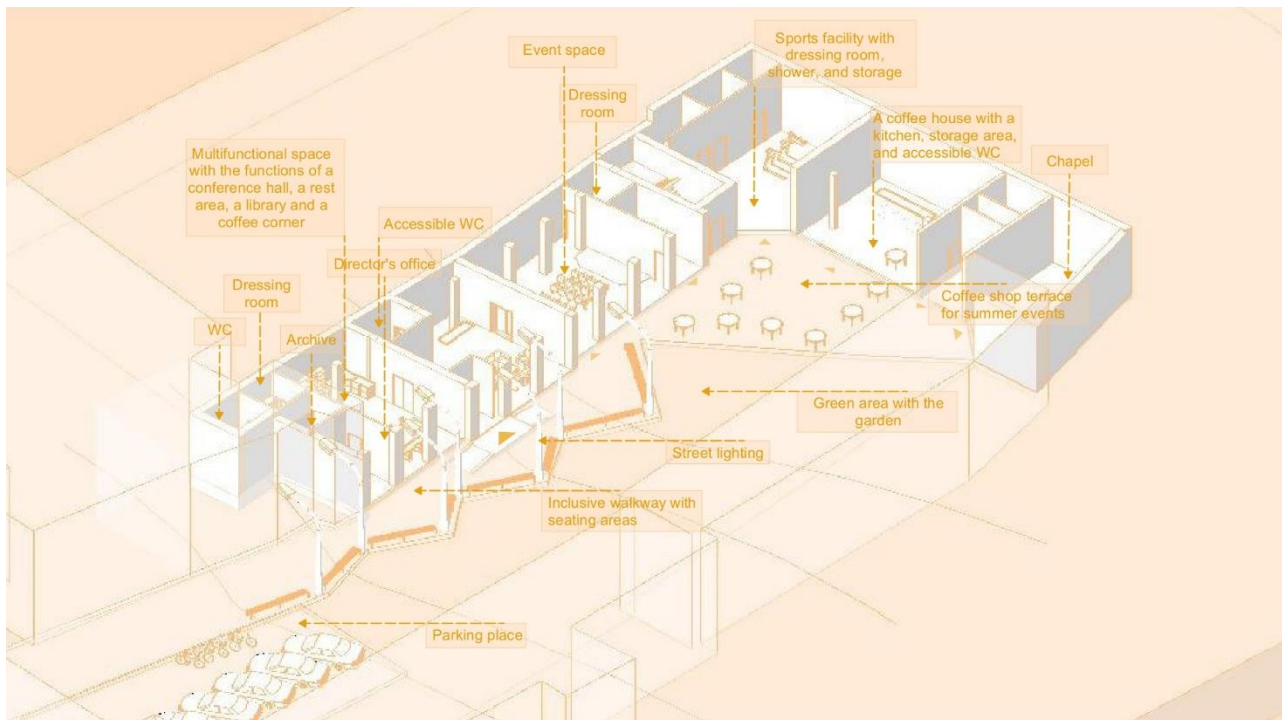


Figure 1. 3D Functional Zoning Diagram of the Youth Center 'Ukrainian Youth for Christ' in Lviv, Ukraine. Drawing by Sofiia Bahdai

The main entrance block, located in the middle, consists of an entrance area, a reception area and a relaxation and waiting area, as well as an inclusive bathroom. The second side block is a multifunctional space for the members of the organization itself: it consists of an open space that combines a conference room, a game area, a relaxation area, a library and a cafe corner, as well as closed rooms such as the room of the head of the organization, an archive room, a wardrobe, and a toilet. Another side block is an assembly hall for large events with a stage, a dressing room for artists and rooms for storing equipment and technology. The second part of the building also consists of three functional blocks. The first block is a sports block, the function of which has been

preserved. The second block consists of former garages, which will function as a café. The third block consists of a former corner garage, which will take on the function of a chapel, which the organization needs in accordance with its Christian orientation.

Regarding the courtyard, it was decided to make it dynamic, which would be a meeting and recreation place not only for the organization's members, but also for the residents. The existing trees and gardens, which were organized and maintained by the residents, were preserved. The road that led to the former garages was decided to be pedestrianized in order to eliminate the possibility of parking and driving directly near the premises. At the same time, a parking area was designed on the south side. The pedestrian path is inclusive, the right part of which forms triangles that serve as areas for communication and recreation, as well as additional tree placement. At the same time, the path smoothly transitions into a terrace on the north, which serves as a summer recreation area near the cafe, as well as a space for exhibitions and open-air dances.

Conclusion. A modern youth center is not just a static institution, but a dynamic organism that is constantly evolving and adapting to the changing needs of young people. To create such a space, it is necessary to take into account a number of important factors, among which flexibility and youth orientation are key.

Flexibility involves creating a space that can be easily adapted to different types of activity. Modular furniture, transformable spaces and the use of technologies that allow changing the functional purpose of the premises are necessary elements of a modern youth center. Such flexibility allows the center to respond to the changing interests of young people and provide a variety of programs and activities.

Youth orientation means that the youth center should not be just a place for leisure, but a platform for the implementation of their ideas and initiatives. Involving young people in the process of developing the concept of the center and its programs is key to success. Regular surveys, focus groups and other methods of collecting young people's opinions ensure that the center meets their needs and interests.

From the 20th to the 21st century, the role of the youth center has changed significantly, as has the attitude towards youth: from the approach of involving youth

in the youth space as a solution to the problem of youth being on the streets in an unfavorable environment to a more conscious approach to youth as a value of society.

As a result, the following main recommendations were formed, which should be taken into account in the architecture of youth centers:

- Integration of the building into the environment
 - Creation of multifunctional spaces
 - Use of natural resources
 - Consideration of the principles of sustainable development
 - Adaptation of old spaces to modern requirements
 - Combination of leisure, educational and business functions
 - Inclusivity
 - Modularity as an element of multifunctionality and work for the future
 - Autonomy
 - Orientation to the personality and individuality of visitors
 - Volumetric planning solutions based on the principle of dispersion and activation
- Creation of opportunities for solitude
 - Physical and psycho-emotional comfort
 - Combination of external space with internal